

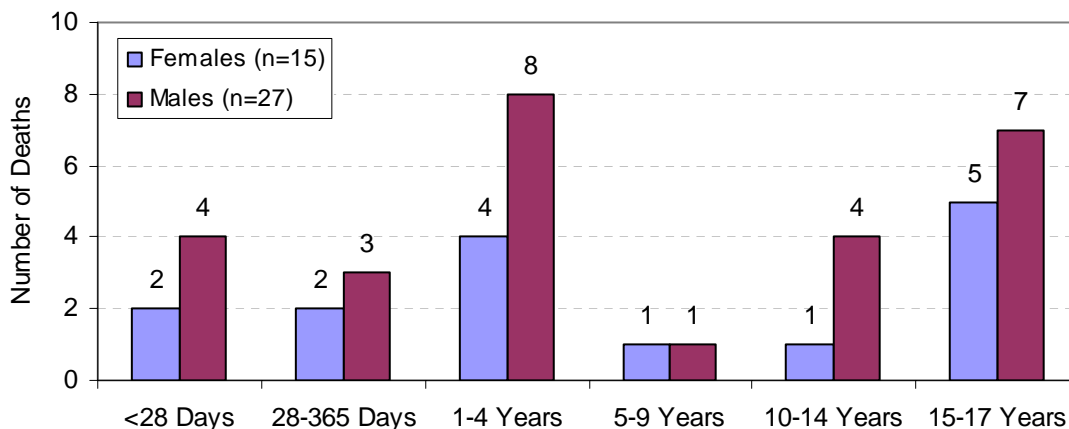


## 2006 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES

### DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Apache or Navajo Counties. During 2006, there was a total of 42 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Apache (n=17) and Navajo (n=25). Males accounted for 64 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=27) and females accounted for 36 percent (n=15). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by gender and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Gender and Age Group, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=42)**

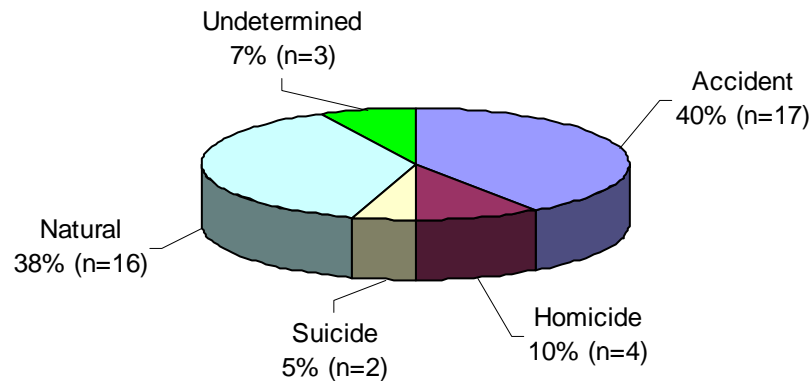


Deaths were over-represented among American Indian and Hispanic children in these counties. American Indian children comprised 69 percent of the population in these counties but 83 percent of the fatalities (n=35). Hispanic children comprised six percent of the population but 12 percent of the fatalities (n=5). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (five percent, n=2).

## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Forty percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=17); ten percent were due to homicides (n=4); five percent were due to suicides (n=2); and seven percent were of undetermined manner (n=3). Thirty-eight percent of deaths were due to natural causes (n=16). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner,  
Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=42)**



Thirteen children died in motor vehicle crashes, and 15 deaths were due to medical causes. All of the 16 deaths determined to have been natural were the result of medical causes, including prematurity. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=42)						
Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Medical*				15		15
Motor vehicle crash	13					13
Fire/burn	2					2
Suffocation/strangulation					2	2
Hanging			2			2
Blunt force trauma		2				2
Drowning	1					1
Poisoning	1					1
Stabbing		1				1
Fall/crush					1	1
Prematurity				1		1
Undetermined		1				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42</b>
*Excluding prematurity						

Among the 13 motor vehicle crash deaths, two children were driving, seven children were passengers, and four children were pedestrians. Three of the four pedestrians were struck by vehicles while in driveways or parking areas. Of the seven vehicle passengers who died in crashes, three were in back seats, two were in front seats, and one was killed while riding in a truck bed. For one child, the location in the vehicle was unknown. Five of the 13 motor vehicle crashes were vehicle rollovers.

## PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caretaker or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 67 percent of the deaths among Apache County and Navajo County children could have been prevented (n=28).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Apache and Navajo Counties, lack of vehicle restraints was a contributing factor for seven child deaths (17 percent), and lack of supervision was a contributing factor for six deaths (14 percent). Drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for six deaths (14 percent), and lack of functioning smoke alarms contributed to two deaths (five percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Apache and Navajo Counties.

<b>Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2006</b>		
<b>Factor*</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Lack of vehicle restraint	7	17%
Lack of supervision	6	14%
Drugs/alcohol	6	14%
Lack of functioning smoke alarm	2	5%
<b>*More than one factor may have been identified for each death</b>		

## CHILD FATALITIES IN APACHE AND NAVAJO COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Apache and Navajo Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2006, 42 children who were residents of Apache or Navajo Counties died, and 1,048 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Apache and Navajo Counties had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Two-thirds of the deaths of Apache County and Navajo County children could have been prevented (67 percent, n=28), compared to slightly more than one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (36 percent, n=383).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (38 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (39 percent). Prematurity only accounted for two percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties but was the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 31 percent of deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties but only 12 percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Apache and Navajo counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

<b>Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2006</b>			
<b>Apache and Navajo Counties (n=42)</b>		<b>Arizona, Excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=1,048)</b>	
<b>Cause</b>	<b>Percent of Deaths</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Percent of Deaths</b>
Medical	38%	Medical	39%
Motor vehicle crash	31%	Prematurity	27%
Other injury	31%	Motor vehicle crash	12%

In Apache and Navajo Counties, the largest percentage of deaths was due to accidents (40 percent), but in the remaining counties, accidents only accounted for 21 percent of child deaths. There was a smaller percentage of natural deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties (38 percent), compared to the rest of the state (66 percent). Homicides accounted for ten percent of child deaths in Apache and Navajo Counties, and six percent in the remaining counties. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Apache and Navajo Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

<b>Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Apache and Navajo Counties, Arizona 2006</b>			
<b>Apache and Navajo Counties (n=42)</b>		<b>Arizona, excluding Apache and Navajo Counties (n=1,048)</b>	
<b>Manner</b>	<b>Percent of Deaths</b>	<b>Manner</b>	<b>Percent of Deaths</b>
Accident	40%	Natural	66%
Natural	38%	Accident	21%
Homicide	10%	Homicide	6%
Undetermined	7%	Suicide	4%
Suicide	5%	Undetermined	3%